

1. Thoroughly investigate even a slight illness.
2. Avoid exposure, especially by keeping children from new groups of people.
3. See that children put no soiled objects into their mouths.
4. Swimming may be an important factor in spread of the disease through contaminated water.
5. All cases and suspected cases should be promptly reported to the health officer.

## Symptoms of Disease

Doctor Geiger said symptoms accompanying the onset of the disease are "many and varied." Usually present are a moderate degree of fever and the signs of a digestive upset headache, pain and stiffness of the neck and muscle tenderness.

As a rule there is a short period of from one to five days after the acute symptoms subside when the patient may be apparently well, he said. Then, if paralysis is to occur, muscle weakness may be noticeable. Pain in the affected muscles generally precedes paralysis and is a "very valuable sign" if recognized early.

He pointed out that physicians at Stanford, California, Children's and San Francisco hospitals have been trained in the Kenny method, adding that a number of out-of-town cases have been brought here for treatment.

**Concerning Medical Publications Sent to Military  
Camps in California by the California Medical As-  
sociation Postgraduate Committee:**

(COPY)

STATION HOSPITAL  
VICTORVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD  
VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA

3 July, 1943.

California Medical Association  
Postgraduate Committee  
450 Sutter Building,  
San Francisco, California.

Gentlemen:

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the medical literature received by this hospital a few days ago.

It has been placed in our library, where it is easily obtainable by the members of the staff. Although it has only been at their disposal a short time, they have found the journals to be very helpful, and I am certain they will continue to find the material even more so, in the future.

The staff members of this hospital join me in expressing our gratitude for your contribution.

For the surgeon:

SAMUEL R. FERRIS,  
2nd Lt., M. A. C.,  
Executive Officer.

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(COPY)

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

June 30, 1943.

California Medical Association  
Postgraduate Committee  
450 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

The medical literature mentioned in your letter of June 21, 1943, has been received and will be distributed to our outlying air fields.

Your thoughtfulness in sending these journals is greatly appreciated and wish to thank you at this time.

Very truly yours,

L. E. MUELLER,  
Captain (M.C.), U. S. Navy,  
Senior Medical Officer.

**Concerning a Hospital Staff Regulation Limiting Surgical Procedures of Staff Members:**

(COPY)

San Francisco, June 9, 1943.

Dear Doctor ———:

Doctor Kress has forwarded to me a copy of your letter of June 1, 1943, in which you request my opinion with respect to the legal status of a physician on the staff of a private hospital.

The general rule of law is that any hospital may, by appropriate rules and regulations, restrict the practice therein in such manner as it sees fit, provided only that each particular rule or regulation must be reasonable and not arbitrary. For example, a rule of a private hospital restricting surgery therein to physicians and surgeons residing within ten miles of the hospital would stand or fall, so far as the law is concerned, on the question as to whether residence within ten miles was a reasonable or an arbitrary requirement.

The question which you raise in your letter is within this principle of law and the proper answer to it depends upon whether the rule established by the hospital is reasonable or unreasonable. Of course, the question of reasonableness is not one that I can answer, as it requires a professional knowledge which no one other than a physician possesses. It is my understanding that the State Association has taken no stand with respect to the particular problem raised in your letter.

Therefore, it would appear that the matter is one of local jurisdiction and that the Los Angeles County Medical Society is the proper body to reach a decision in the first instance.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) HARTLEY F. PEART.

cc: Dr. George H. Kress, Secretary  
California Medical Association.

## MEDICAL EPONYM

*Riggs's Disease*

A paper read before the American Academy of Dental Surgery in New York on October 20, 1875, by John W. Riggs (1810-1885), M.D., F.A.A., D.S., of Hartford, Connecticut, entitled "Suppurative Inflammation of the Gums and Absorption of the Gums and Alveola [*sic*] Process," has served to attach his name to the condition of pyorrhea. This appeared in the *Pennsylvania Journal of Dental Science* (3:99-104, 1876). A portion of the text follows:

"This disease is called by many the disease of old age . . . but at the present day we find the middle aged, and even the young, affected by it . . . one by one the teeth become loose from loss of bony support and are plucked out as an intolerable annoyance. If the inflammatory action be great and involve most or all the gum embracing the teeth, pus tinged with blood exudes from around the necks of the teeth on the slightest pressure of the lips or tongue, or in mastication. The oral secretions become vitiated, present a viscid or sanious character, very abundant in quantity during the day, but much more so in the recumbent position of sleep. If the patient reposes on his side these exudations flow out of the corner of the mouth over the pillow and present in the morning a dried, yellow discoloration, often tinged with blood and covering a space as large as one's hand. If the patient reclines on his back the diseased mass flows back into the fauces and is unconsciously swallowed, then to work a greater mischief. . . . None but the most vigorous constitutions can withstand this type of disease."—R.W.B., in *New England Journal of Medicine*.